

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/055,861

Examiner

Philip C. Lee

Applicant(s)

TAMURA, HIROSHI

Art Unit

2154

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/11/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7, 9-16, 18-25, 27-34, 36-43, 45-52 and 54-74.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 9/22/05.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____.


JOHN FOLLANSBEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

1. An Examiner's Amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 C.F.R.

1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee.

2. Authorization for the examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Paul Teng, reg. no. 40,837, on September 21, 2005.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method of image communications with E-mail, comprising the steps of:

receiving E-mail that includes image ~~information~~ and a request for a receipt acknowledgement, said E-mail being sent from a mail sender;

decoding said image ~~information~~ included in said E-mail;

creating a return mail for acknowledging a receipt of said electronic mail, wherein said return mail includes information indicating successful or unsuccessful transmission of said E-mail;

attaching a predetermined page of said image ~~information~~ to said return mail if the transmission of the E-mail is successful, and attaching the original E-mail in its entirety to the return mail if the transmission of the E-mail is unsuccessful, wherein said predetermined page of

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said image attached to said return mail corresponds to a designated page, a page number of said designated page being designated by said request included in said E-mail; and

transmitting said return mail back to said mail sender as a response to said request.

Claim 8 (canceled).

10. (currently amended) A method of image communications with E-mail, comprising the steps of:

transmitting E-mail to a mail recipient, said E-mail including image ~~information~~ and a request for a receipt acknowledgement;

receiving a return mail from said mail recipient for acknowledging a receipt of said E-mail, wherein said return mail includes information indicating successful or unsuccessful transmission of said E-mail, and said return mail including a predetermined page of said image ~~information~~ included in said E-mail if the transmission of the E-mail is successful, or including the original E-mail in its entirety if the transmission of the E-mail is unsuccessful; and

outputting a status report indicating contents of said return mail and including an image of said predetermined page included in said image ~~information~~.

wherein said predetermined page of said image attached to said return mail corresponds to a designated page, a page number of said designated page being designated by said request included in said E-mail.

Claim 17 (canceled).

19. (currently amended) A data terminal coupled to at least a local area network, comprising:

a communications mechanism arranged and configured to receive E-mail that includes image ~~information~~ and a request for a receipt acknowledgement, said E-mail being sent from a mail sender through said local area network;

a decoder decoding said image ~~information~~ included in said E-mail; and

a controller arranged and configured to create a return mail for acknowledging a receipt of said electronic mail, to include information in said return mail indicating successful or unsuccessful transmission of said E-mail, to attach a predetermined page of said image ~~information~~ to said return mail if the transmission of the E-mail is successful, and attach the original E-mail in its entirety to the return mail if the transmission of the E-mail is unsuccessful, and to cause said communications mechanism to transmit said return mail back to said mail sender as a response to said request,

wherein said predetermined page of said image attached to said return mail corresponds to a designated page, a page number of said designated page being designated by said request included in said E-mail.

Claim 26 (canceled).

28. (currently amended) A data terminal coupled to a local area network, comprising:
a communications mechanism arranged and configured to transmit E-mail to a mail recipient and to receive a return mail from said mail recipient for acknowledging a receipt of said E-mail, said E-mail including image ~~information~~ and a request for a receipt acknowledgement, said return mail including information indicating successful or unsuccessful transmission of said E-mail, and said return mail including a predetermined page of said image ~~information~~ included in said E-mail, if the transmission of the E-mail is successful, and including the original E-mail in its entirety if the transmission of the E-mail is unsuccessful;

an outputting mechanism arranged and configured to output information; and
a controller arranged and configured to create said E-mail, and to retrieve said predetermined page and to cause said outputting mechanism to output a status report indicating contents of said return mail and an image of said retrieved predetermined page when said communications mechanism receives said return mail,

wherein said predetermined page of said image attached to said return mail corresponds to a designated page, a page number of said designated page being designated by said request included in said E-mail.

Claim 35 (canceled).

37. (currently amended) A data terminal coupled to at least a local area network, comprising:

communicating means for receiving E-mail that includes image ~~information~~ and a request for a receipt acknowledgement, said E-mail being sent from a mail sender through said local area network;

decoding means for decoding said image ~~information~~ included in said E-mail; and

controlling means for creating a return mail for acknowledging a receipt of said electronic mail, including information in said return mail indicating successful or unsuccessful transmission of said E-mail, attaching a predetermined page of said image ~~information~~ to said return mail if the transmission of the E-mail is successful, and attaching the original E-mail in its entirety to said return mail if the transmission of the E-mail is unsuccessful, and causing said communicating means to transmit said return mail back to said mail sender as a response to said request,

wherein said predetermined page of said image attached to said return mail corresponds to a designated page, a page number of said designated page being designated by said request included in said E-mail.

Claim 44 (canceled).

46. (currently amended) A data terminal coupled to a local area network, comprising:
communicating means for transmitting E-mail to a mail recipient and receiving a return mail from said mail recipient for acknowledging a receipt of said E-mail, said E-mail including image information and a request for a receipt acknowledgement, and said return mail including information indicating successful or unsuccessful transmission of said E-mail, and including a predetermined page of said image information included in said E-mail, if the transmission of the E-mail is successful, and including the original E-mail in its entirety if the transmission of the E-mail is unsuccessful;

outputting means for outputting information; and

controlling means for creating said E-mail, and when said communicating means receives said return mail, said controlling means being arranged and configured to retrieve said predetermined page and to cause said outputting means to output a status report indicating contents of said return mail and an image of said retrieved predetermined page,

wherein said predetermined page of said image attached to said return mail corresponds to a designated page, a page number of said designated page being designated by said request included in said E-mail.

Claim 53 (canceled).

55. (currently amended) An e-mail system comprising:

a sending facility coupled with a communications network to which a number of receiving facilities are also coupled;

said sending facility being configured to assemble an e-mail message that includes non-image information including a request for an acknowledgment, and ~~image information~~, and to transmit the assembled e-mail message to a selected one of said receiving facilities;

said sending facility being further configured to receive a response e-mail message from said selected receiving facility, said response e-mail message including both non-image information and ~~image information~~, said response e-mail message including information indicating successful or unsuccessful transmission of said original e-mail, and including a predetermined page of said ~~image information~~ included in said original e-mail, if the transmission of the original e-mail is successful, and including the original e-mail in its entirety if the transmission of the original e-mail is unsuccessful; and

an output system coupled to said sending facility and responsive to said response e-mail message to automatically assemble and provide a visual output of a status report related to said response e-mail message, said visual output corresponding to at least a part of the ~~image information~~ included in the response e-mail message,

wherein said predetermined page of said image attached to said return mail corresponds to a designated page, a page number of said designated page being designated by said request included in said E-mail.

56. (currently amended) An e-mail system comprising:

a receiving facility coupled with a communications network to which a sending facility is also coupled;

said receiving facility being configured to receive an incoming e-mail message over said network from said sending facility, said received e-mail message including a request for an acknowledgment and both non-image information and image ~~information~~;

said receiving facility being further configured to automatically assemble a response e-mail message that includes both non-image information and image ~~information~~, said response e-mail message including information indicating successful or unsuccessful transmission of said received e-mail message, and including a predetermined page of said image ~~information~~ included in said received e-mail message, if the transmission of the received e-mail message is successful, and including the received e-mail message in its entirety if the transmission of the received e-mail message is unsuccessful; and

an output system coupled to said receiving facility and configured to automatically send said response e-mail message to said sending facility over said network,

wherein said predetermined page of said image attached to said return mail corresponds to a designated page, a page number of said designated page being designated by said request included in said E-mail.

Reason for Allowance

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: None of the prior art of records teach or suggest in combination a method of image communications with E-mail, comprising the steps of:

attaching a predetermined page of said image to said return mail if the transmission of the E-mail is successful, and attaching the original E-mail in its entirety to the return mail if the transmission of the E-mail is unsuccessful, wherein said predetermined page of said image attached to said return mail corresponds to a designated page, a page number of said designated page being designated by said request included in said E-mail; and

transmitting said return mail back to said mail sender as a response to said request.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip C. Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-3967. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM TO 5:30 PM Monday to Thursday and every other Friday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on (571) 272-3964. The fax phone number for Group 2100 is (571) 273-8300. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this

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application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 350-6121.

Philip Lee



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